GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4120
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
BREAST CANCER
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Breast Cancer has been found to be the number one cancer amongst women and fastest rising cancer among women in urban India as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 10, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether passive smoking enhances the risk of breast cancer amongst women;

(d) if so, the details of other reasons for breast cancer among women ; and

(e) measures taken /proposed to be taken by the Government for spreading the awareness about breast cancer amongst women and prevention of the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): Breast cancer among women is one of the leading cancers in urban areas in India. The information on incidence rate of cancer is available from the data of Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCR) functioning under National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). As per this data, breast cancer is the commonest cancer among women in urban PBCRs of Bangalore, Mumbai, Bhopal and Delhi, while it is 2nd commonest in PBCR Chennai.

(c)&(d): The study mentioned in the news item under reference mentions about association of passive smoking with breast cancer. But studies linking smoking and breast cancer are not available in India. The known risk factors associated with development of breast cancer include, high-fat diet, lack of physical activity, menarche at early age, late onset of menopause, first pregnancy after 30 years of age and possible high estrogen levels.

(e): All the schemes under the National Cancer Control Programme have since been revised. Special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme to be implemented through the nodal agencies in districts identified by State Governments.